

## ***The One and Only Stuey Lewis***

Schoenberg, J. (2011). *The one and only Stuey Lewis*. Evans, C., illustrator. New York, NY: Farrar Straus Giroux. 124pp.

- **Summary:**

This book is written from the perspective of a second grader named Stuey. There are four short stories within this book. The first one is about Stuey Lewis learning how to read. He tries his best to avoid library days and reading altogether, but his teacher, Ginger, catches on to him and she encourages him to learn. The second short story is about Halloween. Stuey convinces his older brother Anthony that he has the best costume idea ever; it is a little risky, but should ensure they get the most candy. The third short story is about Stuey playing soccer. Will he ever be as good as his older brother Anthony? The last short story is about secret friends. Ginger has the students pick names of someone in the class to be a secret friend to. That means doing nice things for them. Unfortunately for Stuey he picks the one person that he absolutely without a doubt cannot be nice to.

- **Awards Received:**

- A Children's Book Council/ National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Science Trade Book
- Bank Street College best books
- Parent's Choice

- **Professional Review:**

Kirkus Review from: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jane-schoenberg/one-and-only-stuey-lewis/>

“Stuey Lewis is filled with angst about reading, Halloween, soccer and one annoying classmate in this big-hearted tale of second grade.

Stuey is a regular second grader. That means he worries about everything. Stuey's dad no longer lives with them, brother Anthony is a soccer prodigy, and a bossy classmate keeps him on edge. These anxieties formed the core of linked short stories, told by Stuey himself, which chronicle the changes his second-grade year brings. Stuey's best friend Will is a 'reading monster,' which makes Stuey feel bad that he is not yet ready to plow through a pile of chapter books. He keeps waiting for the reading light to turn on, but it isn't happening fast enough. How can Stuey possibly measure up to Anthony if he goes out for 'bitty league soccer'? It's even worse when he realizes the awful Lilly is on his team! Natural dialogue and believable school situations capture the drama of second grade, gently showing readers that things will get better. Occasional black-and-white illustrations add another humorous touch that new readers will appreciate. By the time the year is over, Stuey is no longer feigning illness to get out of school and is even looking forward to another year with beloved teacher Ms. Curtis, who is moving up with this winning class.

Stuey's fans will be crossing their fingers for a sequel. (*Fiction. 6-9*)”

- **Author Information:**

Author Website: <http://janeschoenberg.com/index.html>

- **Illustrator Information:**

Illustrator Website: <http://www.cambriaevans.com/books.html>

- **Discussion questions:**

- Pre-reading questions
  - What problems might a little boy have in second grade?
  - What are some of your fears? How do you deal with them?
  - What subject is the hardest for you in school? Why is it so difficult?
- Questions during reading
  - Have you ever had a teacher like Ginger? How were they similar/different?
  - Why won't Stuey Lewis tell anyone that he cannot read?
  - Who finds out about Stuey's Halloween costume plan?
  - Why doesn't Stuey want to play soccer? What changes his mind?
  - How does Stuey find a way to be nice to his secret friend?
- Post-reading questions
  - What exciting news do the students find out at the end of the story?
  - What does Stuey learn about himself in second grade?
  - Do any of you have the same/ similar fears to Stuey Lewis?

- **Curricular Activities:**

- **Reading/oral language-** split the students up into groups to form interactive reading circles. Read assigned chapters in class or at home. Give the groups questions to talk about with each other. Walk around and monitor and help guide the conversations.
- **Writing-** conduct an activity similar to the secret friends in the book. Have students pick a name of another student and write him or her a letter. Vocabulary words learned can be incorporated into this letter if desired.
- **Math-** Connect to the chapter about Stuey's soccer team. Have the students add/subtract players from teams.
  - Have students create word problems about how many houses they could get while trick or treating (depending on how many times they went around the block.)
- **Art-** Students can choose a time in which they had to make the best of a situation that they did not like (such as when Stuey Lewis was not on the soccer team he wanted.) They must then draw a picture of the scene on a piece of paper in the shape of something that reminds them of that scene (Stuey's picture would be drawn on a piece of paper in the shape of a soccer ball.) Have students write a few sentences about the situation on the back.

- **Science-** students can learn about pumpkins and their life cycle. What processes occur from seed to pumpkin?
- **Drama-** Give groups of students a slip of paper with a situation on it in which a problem is presented. Students are to quickly create a skit and perform it for the class. The students are then to discuss the situation and talk about how they would handle the situation in the best way possible.
- **Technology-** Smart Board activities can be used for math problems, sentence correcting, matching vocabulary words to their definitions, etc.
- **Related books:**
  - *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* (by Julie Sternberg)
  - *Invisible Inkling* (by Emily Jenkins)
  - *Marty McGuire* (by Kate Messner)
  - *When Life Gives you O.J.* (by Erica S. Perl)
  - *Roscoe Riley Rules #1: Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs* (by Katherine Applegate)
- **Other titles by Jane Schoenberg:**
  - *My Bodyworks: Songs About Your Bones, Muscles, Heart and More!*
  - *The Baby Hustle: An Interactive Book with Wiggles and Giggles*
  - *Stuey Lewis Against All Odds: Stories from the Third Grade*
- **Other titles illustrated by Cambria Evans:**
  - *Part-time Princess*
  - *Bone Soup*
  - *Stuey Lewis Against All Odds: Stories from the Third Grade*
  - *Martha Moth Makes Socks*
- **Websites for further study or enrichment:**
  - <http://ep2ndgraderocks.blogspot.com/2011/11/life-cycle-of-pumpkin.html>  
This website has numerous links to websites about pumpkins that can be used when students are learning about pumpkins.
  - <http://www.ixl.com/math/grade-2>  
This website has lots of links to math games. It covers many math units that are taught in second grade.
  - <http://www.funbrain.com/>  
This website has numerous games all specifically designed for second graders.